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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes FIG. 4, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4.

The replacement sheet deletes features appearing in the originally filed FIG. 4 that were not described in the Specification of the patent application and also removes a superfluous drawing title.

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REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to correct grammar errors and to insert references to numerals appearing in the Drawing figures.

The Examiner requested restriction between the claims of Group I (Claims 1-13 and 25-27) drawn to a method to access consent by an authority, the claims of Group II (Claims 14-24) drawn to a method for providing data to a third party and the claims of Group III (Claims 28-31) drawn to a method for creating a meta-directory. During a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney on March 17, 2005, a provisional election was made to prosecute the invention of Group II, Claims 14-24. Applicants affirm the election of the claims of Group II and traverse the restriction requirement.

Applicants' invention is drawn to a permission based data exchange. An entity is in communication with a third party. The third party wishes to get additional information regarding the entity and contacts a host that regulates the flow of information. Consent to release this information may be at the discretion of the entity as in claim 14 or on consent of a third party as in the Group I claims. Because Groups I and II are interrelated as to the host releasing information about the entity to the third party on the consent of either the entity or a third party that is typically related to the entity (such as parent or employer) these two groups of claims are sufficiently interrelated that both groups of claims may properly be examined at the same time. It is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement as between Groups I and II be removed.

Regarding the Group III claims, these claims are drawn to a method for creating a meta-directory that provides a host with information that may only be released if the requestor is authorized to receive that information. Since such authorization may originate with an entity or with a third party, the claims of Group III are sufficiently interrelated with the claims of both Groups I and II that all claims may properly be evaluated at the same time. It is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement as between Groups I and III be removed.

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Applicants believe that all claims may be properly examined at the same time and respectfully request removal of the restriction requirement. In the event that the Examiner repeats the restriction requirement and makes it final, Applicants reaffirm the election of the claims of Group II, Claims 14-24.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) for including reference characters not mentioned in the description. Regarding Figures 1, 2 and 5, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 19 to include the reference numeral missing from Figure 1; amended the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16 to include the reference numeral missing from Figure 2; and both amended the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24 and added additional text to include the reference numerals omitted from Figure 5. This additional text was a portion of Applicants' originally filed application and is found at pages 6 and 7 of Applicant's U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0049907A1.

Regarding Figure 4, a corrected drawing sheet is enclosed.

The Examiner objected to claims 18 and 22 under 37 C.F. R. 1.75(a) for containing informalities. Claims 18 and 22 have been amended to correct the informalities and the objection is believed to have been rendered moot.

Applicants' invention, as embodied in Claim 14, is drawn to a method for a host to provide known data about an entity to a third party. Release of this data requires the entity's authorization. There is a preexisting relationship between the entity and the host, such that the third party is able to recognize the entity as a member of the service of the host. As embodied in Applicants' claims 16 and 17, the indication that the entity is a member of the service of the host may be digitally transmitted data. As such, the third party is directed to contact the host to receive specific information about the entity. The host identifies the information requested by the third party and presents that information to the entity. On the entity's authorization, the information is delivered to the third party.

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Applicant's claims 14-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Aieta, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,349). Aieta, et al. refers to three parties to a data exchange as client, server and bonding agent. The Applicants refer to the corresponding three parties as entity, third party and host. To assist distinguishing Aieta, et al. from Applicant's claims, the corresponding member is presented in these Remarks in parentheses. In Aieta, et al., the server (third party) has a preexisting relationship with a bonding agent (host). See for example Aieta at column 7, lines 9-10 which discloses that the user of the client may use bonded information only with a bonded server. See also column 7, lines 33-34 which discloses that the client logs into the bonded agent at the direction of the server.

The Aieta, et al. system assumes that the client and the server have a common interest, such as the purchase of a product, and that the transfer of restricted information will facilitate that transaction. In Aieta et al., the server has a preexisting relationship with the bonding agent. Contrast the prior art with Applicants' claimed system that is effective when there is no preexisting relationship between the third party and the host. Applicants' claimed system provides a mechanism whereby the entity notifies the third party of the need to work via a specific host. This feature of Applicants' invention is embodied in lines 2-4 of claim 14. The Examiner identifies Aieta, et al. at column 7, lines 14-22, as anticipating this feature of Applicants' invention. However, the cited lines of the reference disclose that when a user associated with a client decides to purchase an item or services from a server, the user initiates communication with the server and the server notifies the bonding agent of the types of private information the server requests from the user. The Aieta et al. disclosure teaches and suggests a preexisting relationship between the server and the bonding agent whereby the server selects the bonding agent. The reference system teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention where the entity (client) notifies a third party (server) of the proper host (bonding agent) to contact for requested restricted information.

There is nothing in Aieta, et al. to teach or suggest a preexisting relationship between an entity (client) and a host (bonding agent), as opposed to a bonding agent and a server whereby the third party requesting the information contacts the host designated by the entity for that information. Further, there is nothing in Aieta, et al. to teach or suggest a mechanism whereby

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restricted information may flow to a third party that has not registered with a specific host (bonding agent).

Applicant's claims are neither taught nor suggested by the Aieta, et al. reference and should be allowed over the cited reference.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of Aieta, et al. combined with at least one additional reference. However, none of the combination of references teach or suggest a permission based data exchange as claimed by the Applicants wherein the entity identifies to a third party the host to contact for access to restricted information. Applicants' claims should be allowed over the cited combination of references.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipate or make obvious the invention as presently claimed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the application and the Examiner is respectfully requested to take such proper actions so that a patent will issue herefrom as soon as possible.

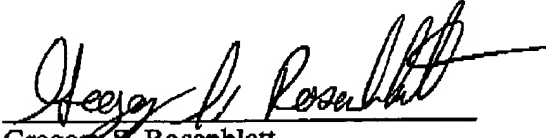
If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Please apply any credits or charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher E. Woods, et al.

Date: *October 3, 2005*


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